

Message Text

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S/S:MR SHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 301352 TOSEC 320202

NODIS

FOR SEITZ; FOR SECRETARY

FOL RPT GENEVA 9783 ACTION SECSTATE 9 DEC QUOTE

S E C R E T GENEVA 9783

NODIS

FOR AMB SCHAUFLE FROM WISNER

DEPT PASS THE SECRETARY'S PARTY IN BRUSSELS

DEPT PASS LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: RICHARD'S DEC 8 MEETING WITH SMITH

1. SMITH AND THE PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION
CALLED ON RICHARD THE EVENING OF DEC 8. SMITH
WAS IN WHAT RICHARD DESCRIBED TO BE A "SPITTING, ANGRY
MOOD." RICHARD MET PRIVATELY WITH SMITH FOR 10 MINUTES
BUT WAS BARELY ABLE TO CALM HIM DOWN.

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2. SMITH LED OFF WITH A CHARGE THAT THE BRITISH HAD

MISLED HIM ABOUT THE REAL PURPOSES OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THE AMERICANS HAD MISLED HIM AS WELL. BOTH THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS HAVE CLEARLY BEEN MISLED BY THE AFRICANS. AFTER ALMOST ONE HOUR OF SMITH'S DISPLEASURE, RICHARD SAID HE CALMED DOWN AND SAID THERE WAS NO POINT IN GOING FURTHER INTO PAST HISTORY.

3. SMITH SAID HE HAD NO INTENTION OF PUTTING FORWARD A PAPER AT THE CONFERENCE WHICH DREW FROM ANNEX C. IT WAS THE JOB OF THE BRITISH TO SEL THE FIVE POINTS AND ANNEX C AND NOT HIS. HE WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS HOW THIS OBJECTIVE COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BUT NOT WHETHER IT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT. SMITH REMARKED THAT HE NOW UNDERSTOOD BOTH THE FIVE POINTS AND ANNEX C WOULD NOT SURVIVE DEBATE IN GENEVA AND QUESTIONED WHETHER GOING THROUGH THE CHARADE HAD ANY MERIT.

4. PERHAPS REVEALING SMITH'S PLAN, PARTRIDGE INTERVENED AND SAID "PRIME MINISTER, YOU MUST BE ABLE TO SAY THAT YOU WERE DENIED AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT FORWARD THE COUNCIL OF STATE." SMITH CAME BACK AND SAID THAT HE WAS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF AN EARLY ADJOURNMENT OF THE CONFERENCE. THE PARTIES WOULD RETURN TO RHODESIA AND PERHAPS "SANITY COULD EMERGE." HE REMINDED RICHARD TESTILY THAT "ALL WILL BE UP AGAIN FOR NEGOTIATION, EVEN MY COMMITMENT TO MAJORITY RULE."

5. SMITH CALMED DOWN AND ASKED RICHARD WHAT COULD BE DONE TO "SALVAGE THIS MESS." RICHARD ARGUED THAT IN HIS JUDGMENT IT WAS STILL POSSIUI TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT IN WHICH WHITES WOULD SHARE POWER IN THE INTERIM AND POST MAJORITY RULE GOVERNMENT. HE ASKED SMITH IF HE WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER ANY ALTERNATIVE TO THE PRESENT PACKAGE. SMITH SAID HE WAS BUT WOULD NEED A CONFIRMATION IN WRITING FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WHICH SPELLED OUT EXACTLY WHAT THE BRITISH HAD IN MIND. HE HAD COME TO GENEVA TO DISCUSS THE ORGANIZATION OF A COUNCIL OF STATE AND IF THAT PROPOSAL WOULD NOT CARRY IN GENEVA, HE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE FURTHER TIME

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TO STUDY THE SITUATION AND THE ALTERNATIVES.

6. RICHARD IS MEETING SMITH AGAIN AT 10:30 ON DEC 9. RICHARD IS CALM BUT FOUND SMITH TO BE TOUGH AND UNYIELDING. HE APPEARED, ACCORDING TO RICHARD, TO BE SETTING UP HIS DEFENSE AND READYING HIMSELF TO ACCUSE THE BRITISH OF NOT HAVING GIVEN THE "CONTRACT" AN HONEST RUN. SMITH LEFT RICHARD

WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT HE WOULD NOT TABLE A
NEGOTIATING POSITION ON WHICH THE CONFERENCE COULD
PROCEED. SMITH WANTS AN ADJOURNMENT. CATTO

UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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